



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Mapping My Route to School

Lesson Plan

Grade Level:	3-5
Subject Area:	Social Studies (Geography), Mathematics Practical Living/Vocational Studies
Core Content:	SS-(EP,04,05)-4.1.1, MA-(EP,04,05)-1.2, MA-(EP,04,05)-2.1 PL-(EP,04,05)-1.4.01
Overview:	In this lesson students will place relevance in learning how to use a map by tracing their own routes to school on a local area map.
Suggested time:	2-3 class periods
Materials:	Local area map (enlarged with school at the center), copies of map for each child, pedometers
Vocabulary:	map key, route, pedometer

Activities:

1. Distribute copies of a local area map. Ask students to trace their route to school using a colored pen or pencil. They may have more than one route if they ride some days and walk on others. Use different colors for each route and create a key. Be sure to have students mark their houses and the school on the map.
2. Ask the class to share some of the reasons they cannot walk or ride to school and brainstorm possible solutions.
3. Discuss problems students encounter (barking dogs, speeding cars, no sidewalks, etc.). Tell them to mark any dangerous spots on their map (include marks in the key). Encourage students to be creative, draw pictures, etc. to describe the various types of dangers.
4. Transfer this information to a larger class map.
5. Have students estimate how many steps it will take to walk any particular portion of their maps. Using pedometers have students walk the distances and record the exact number of steps the pedometer registered. Once students have both numbers, challenge them to figure out how close their estimates were by comparing the estimate to the actual. Have students record their differences on a class chart. Lastly, have students add up the



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differences for all scenarios. If you want to turn this into a game, have students compare their scores to see who had the lowest or highest score.

Extensions:

- Have the class participate in a nature scavenger hunt using pedometers.
<http://www.pecentral.org/lessonideas/ViewLesson.asp?ID=4511>
- Walk Smart! Virginia has developed a collection of over fifty pedometer related activities.
<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/PE/walksmart/lessonplans.pdf>

